



Federal Student Aid At a Glance



WHAT is federal student aid?

Federal student aid is financial help for students enrolled in eligible programs at participating schools to cover school (a two-year or four-year public or private educational institution, a career school or trade school) expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Most federal aid is need-based. The three most common types of aid are grants, loans, and work-study.

GRANTS...financial aid that does not have to be repaid. Generally, grants are for undergraduate students, and the grant amount is based on need, cost of attendance, and enrollment status.

Federal Pell Grants for the 2002-2003 school year ranged from \$400 to \$4,000.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) range from \$100 to \$4,000.

LOANS...borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. Both undergraduate and graduate students may borrow money. Parents may also borrow to pay education expenses for dependent undergraduate students. Maximum loan amounts depend on the student's year in school.

Federal Stafford Loans are made to students and PLUS loans are made to parents through two loan programs.

- William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program: eligible students and parents borrow directly from the federal government at participating schools. Direct Loans include Direct Stafford Loans, Direct PLUS Loans, and Direct Consolidation Loans.
- Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program: private lenders provide federally guaranteed funds. FFELs include FFEL Stafford Loans, FFEL PLUS Loans, and FFEL Consolidation Loans.

Perkins Loans are offered by participating schools to provide students that demonstrate the most need with low-interest loans.

WORK-STUDY...lets you earn money while enrolled in school to help pay for education expenses.

NOTE: *Not all schools participate in all of the Federal Student Aid programs. Ask your school's financial aid administrator which programs are available.*

WHO gets federal student aid?

Some of the requirements to receive aid from the U.S. Department of Education's SFA programs are that you must

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen with a valid Social Security Number;
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development (GED) certificate or pass an approved ability-to-benefit (ATB) test;
- Enroll in an eligible program as a regular student seeking a degree or certificate; and
- Register (or have registered) with the Selective Service if you are a male between the ages of 18 and 25.

HOW do you apply for federal student aid?

1. Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSASM).

The FAFSA lists deadlines for federal and state aid. Check deadlines! Schools and states may have different deadlines for aid.

You may get a FAFSA

- online at www.fafsa.ed.gov;
 - from a high school guidance office;
 - from a college financial aid office;
 - from a local public library; or
 - from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)
2. Review your Student Aid Report (SAR).

One to four weeks after you submit your FAFSA, we will send you a SAR. The SAR confirms the information reported on your FAFSA and will tell you your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is an index of need that your financial aid administrator will use to determine the amount of federal student aid for which you qualify.

3. Contact the school(s) you may attend.

Talk with the financial aid administrator at the schools you're interested in attending. They will review your SAR and prepare a letter outlining the amount of aid (from all sources) that their school will offer you.



Visit our Web site at
www.studentaid.ed.gov

NOTE: Not all schools participate in all of the Federal Student Aid programs. Ask your school's financial aid administrator which programs are available.

Federal Student Aid Program	Type of Aid	Other Information	Annual Award Limits	Disbursement
Federal Pell Grant	Grant: does not have to be repaid	Available to undergraduates only	Up to \$4,000 for 2002-2003	School acts as the U.S. Department of Education's agent
Campus-Based Aid Programs				
FSEOG	Grant: does not have to be repaid	Not all schools participate in all Campus-Based Programs. For undergraduates only	Up to \$4,000	School disburses funds to students
Federal Work-Study	Money is earned, does not have to be repaid	Not all schools participate in all Campus-Based Programs	No annual maximum	School disburses earned funds to students
Federal Perkins Loan	Loan: must be repaid	Not all schools participate in all Campus-Based Programs	\$4,000 for undergraduate students \$6,000 for graduate students	School disburses funds to students
Direct Loan and FFEL Programs				
Subsidized Stafford Loan	Loan: must be repaid	Subsidized: The Department of Education pays interest while the student is in school and during grace and deferment periods	\$2,625 to \$18,500, depending on grade level	Direct Loans: the federal government provides funds to schools to disburse to students FFEL: private lenders provide funds to schools to disburse to students
Unsubsidized Stafford Loans	Loan: must be repaid	Unsubsidized: the borrower is responsible for interest during the life of the loan	\$2,625 to \$18,500, depending on grade level	Same as above
PLUS Loan	Loan: must be repaid	Available to parents of dependent undergraduate students	Cost of attendance minus any other financial aid received	Same as above